whole tobacco industry of the country, from

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f our friends who favor us with manuscripts fo publication wish to have rejected articles returned, they must in all cases send stamps for that purpose.

### he Origin of "Ex Proprio Vigore." The Democrats opposed to expansion are

going to build their case upon the proposition that the United States Constitution extends itself, by its own force and without legislative enactment, to all territory possessed by the United States, whether acquired by conquest, by purchase, or by treaty of annexation.

This doctrine carries logical consequence that reach far; and it is because its logical consequences reach far, and tend to embarrass Congress and the Executive and the Judiciary in the development and regulation of the new national policy, that the opponents of progress affirm it now.

From this time on, every question of legislation regarding our new possessions will be discussed on one side on lines shaped in accordance with this fundamental theory, namely, that the Constitution of the United States applies immediately and inevitably, exproprio rigore, to every square yard of territory which comes by any process under the flag and jurisdiction of the United States. The Democrats of the Senate and the House will make it serve as the compass of caucus policy. It will be the touchstone of every proposed measure for the government of our new possessions. It will be in full sight through every important debate in the Senate or in the House. Mr. BRYAN has proclaimed it. It is likely to figure in the next Democratic platform, and it is sure to appear conspicuously this year upon the Democratic stump. What is the origin of this great theory

or doctrine so suddenly invented, or rather revived, by the opposition party for use in the political emergencies of the year 1900?

Senator FORAKER of Ohio disclosed the source of it on Monday when, in the course of a discussion starting with the matter of telephone charges in the District of Columbia, he quoted incidentally from Thomas H. BENTON'S "Thirty Years in the United States Senate.

Let the anti-expansion Democrats enjoy a full view of the fountain head of their much-prized doctrine of ex proprio rigore. The headlines and part of the text of Mr. BENTON'S one hundred and twenty-fifth chapter become very interesting now:

MR. CALHOUN'S NEW DOGMA ON TERRITORIAL SLAVERY-SELF-EXTENSION OF THE SLAVERY PART OF THE CONSTITUTION TO THE TERRITORIES

The resolutions of 1847 went no further than to deny the power of Congress to prohibit slavery in a Territory, and that was enough while Congress alone was the power to be guarded against; but it became insufficient, and even a stumbling block, when New Mexico and California were acquired. and where no Congress prohibition was necessary because their soil was already free. Here the Cogma of '47 became an impediment to the Territorial extension of slavery ; for in denying power to legislate upon the subject the denial worked both ways-both against the admission and exclusion.

'A new dogma was invented to ht the case-that of the transmigration of the Constitution the slavery part of its into the Territories, overriding and overraling all the anti-slavery laws which it found there, and planting taining it beyond the power of eradication either by Congress or the people of the Territor

Before the dogma was proclaimed efforts were made to get the Constitution extended to these Territories by act of Congress; failing in these attempts, the difficulty was leaped over by boildy assuming that the Constitution went of itself—that is to say, the clavery part of it. In this exigency Mr. Calhoun came out with his new and supreme dogma of the transmigratory function of the Constitution in the ipse facto, and the instantaneous transportation of itself, in its slavery attributes, into all acquired Ter-

"History cannot class higher than as a vagary of a diseased imagination this imputed self-acting and self-extension of the Constitution. The Constitution does nothing of itself-not even in the States, for which it was made. Every part of it requires a law to put it into operation. No part of it can reach a Territory unless imparted to it by act of Con-

Thus it appears that the theory of Constitutional self-extension now so suddenly and so solemnly assumed by the antiexpansionists as a weapon with which to resist the march of national progress, was not invented or formulated by them.

It is simply the old dogma of the slaveholding interests, the temporary device of the statesmen who endeavored to extend slavery over all the new territory of the United States; and it is revived now in the name of American freedom and Constitutional liberty!

What does Mr. BRYAN think ABRAHAM LINCOLN would have had to say about the Calhoun doctrine that the Constitution goes of itself unaided into all new territory of the United States?

Suez and Micaragua. The plea is put forward by the apologists for the Hay-Pauncefote Treaty that, although the United States Government was not a party to the Constantinople convention of 1888, we are nevertheless authorized to use the Suez Canal in time of war, and we ought, therefore, to frame the regulations of the Nicaragua waterway in accordance with the sense of duty to other nations expressed in the convention just mentioned which framed rules for the

Suez Canal. The answer to this assertion is that, so far as Great Britain is concerned upon the one hand, and the United States are concerned upon the other, there is absolutely no parallelism between the Suez Canal and the projected Nicaragua waterway. It is notorious that, in spite of the ostensibly equitable rules embodied in the Constantinople convention, Great Britain would, in the event of war with the United States, be absolute mistress of the Suez Canal, and we could not possibly use that waterway to attack India or Australia. If, on the other hand, the Suez Canal rules were made applicable to the artificial Nicaragua channel, we could not control the latter and Great Britain could use it to attack our Pacific coast.

But why, it may be asked, could not we use the Suez Canal in the event of a contest with Great Britain? For two reasons: First, because our warships could not, with any show of prudence, undertake to pass the British naval stations at Gibraltar, Malta, Cyprus and Alexandria; secondly, because, even if our warships should manage to reach Port Said, and should original conception is defeated wholly. cities of Persia and took possession of the

Canal, they would have embarked on suicidal voyage, for they would be bottled up in the Red Sea, the narrow southern neck of which is guarded by British fortifi-

cations as well as a British fleet. Not only have we no such power of controlling the means of access and of exit in the case of the Nicaragua Canal, but England is far more favorably situated than we are ourselves with regard to the Caribbean entrance of the projected waterway, having fortified harbors at St. Lucia and Jamaica, and having a strategic coign of vantage in British Honduras on the mainland of the American Isthmus.

To allege, therefore, that our sense of duty to other nations should make us apply to the Nicaragua Canal the rules nominally operative at Suez is to assume that the American people are grossly ignorant with regard to the tremendous difference between the waterways in respect of geographical and strategic conditions.

### Puerto Rico.

The conflict that was fought out in 1898 between Spain and the United States in the West Indies was irrepressible. Cuba and Puerto Rico were as certain to be trapsferred in some way to the sovereignty or protection of the United States as the day is to dawn over the Atlantic.

In view of the fact that Puerto Rico was bound to become American and that she is American, the proposition to keep her in some degree a foreigner, excluded from the circle of United States trade, is repugnant to this country's sentiment and belief.

This nation must necessarily, from its con ception of itself as the dominating nation of the continent, object to maintaining a commercial barrier against an island that politically as well as geographically is a part of it. No local interest can prevent the rearrangement of our relations with Puerto Rico that justice and common sense together prescribe. Americanism is too strong to sanction a scheme so essentially un-American as not to bestow upon the conquered Puerto Rico all the American rights and privileges that she can advantageously receive. Puerto Rico is as ready for free trade with

the United States as she is for sunlight.

### The Appalling Price of a Boycott.

A few years since, owing to the downfall of various newsgathering associations, practically all the newspapers in the country passed into a single organization called the Associated Press. THE SUN refused to join and determined to collect the news for itself, setting forth plainly as its reason for doing so that it could not afford to belong to an organization which was subject to a management of the character of that of the Associated Press. The quality and scope of the news which

THE SUN gathered, and this we say with reluctance, because we habitually eschew all appearance of self-laudation or proclamation of our own efficiency, created a natural desire on the part of nearly all the leading and resourceful news; apers in the country to share in its publication. This they did, by agreement with THE SUN, and it was a source of revenue to THE SUN. The management of the Associated Press immediately became an open and unconcealed conspiracy to destroy The SUN. Our correspondents were blacklisted and proscribed in every city in the United States: all newspapers were ordered to withhold all access to the news from THE SUN'S agents, while those papers that were sharing in the news gathered by THE SUN and paying for it were compelled to discontinue its use under penalties which seemed to them too severe to incur. Thus THE Sun was effectively boycotted by the Associated Press for the private and personal ends of the managers of that concern, and, be it thoroughly understood, without the complicity, sympathy or approval of a single respectable newspaper in any part of the country. It cost The Sux some hundreds of thousands of dollars, but it were better far that THE SUN should be extinguished and forever destroyed than that it should yield to such baleful and malignant influences as were arrayed against it.

A Chicago newspaper, the Inter-Ocean was a subscriber to THE SUN'S news and was peremptorily ordered by the Associated Press managers to desist from printing it It refused, and the general news service of the Associated Press was discontinued -a midnight. It was thought very generally in the newspaper world that such a blow must necessarily be fatal, but the Inter Ocean not only continued to appear, but from out its own resources and energy and its enjoyment of THE SUN'S news service it became a far better newspaper than it was before and achieved a pros perity and public esteem in Chicago the like of which it had not previously known It sought promptly, however, its legal remedy against the arbitrary outrage sought to be perpetrated, and after many setbacks, delays and discouragements is secured from the Supreme Court of Illinois

on Monday last a decision in its favor. This decision has been published in ou columns, and it is practically destructive of the Associated Press. It obliterates its franchises, declares it to be unlawful and in "restraint of trade" and decides that it is compelled by the law to sell its news to any newspaper wishing to publish it.

This is a deplorable result. We have not at any time sought the overthrow or injury of the Associated Press. We refused to join it, because of the evil and dangerous character of its management and the results of that management have only too fully justified our course. In so far as we have ourselves sought the aid of the law, it was merely to the end that we might be permitted to conduct our own business in peace and liberty and to supply our news to whomsoever it might please to pay for it. Of that right we were deprived, not in the interests of the Associated Press but in the private and personal interests o the men in control of the Associated Press We were never embarked in any campaign of hostility to the welfare of the Associated Press. We believed in the underlying principle of its organization and we firmly believe in it and approve of it to-day. We have never failed to proclaim this belief, and we have imparted practical, personal and official knowledge of it to the managers of the Associated Press. It was all to no purpose. The managers had their private ends to subserve, their personal animosities to gratify, and the President of the Associated Press himself had his own private news business to promote and had no scruples about using the institution of which he was a trustee to crush out his rival. This last he has set forth with remarkable frankness

and detail over his own signature And what is the outcome? The Associated

thereupon be suffered to traverse the Suez | Whoever wishes can have and print its costly and, heretofore, exclusive news service. THE SUN was justified in condemning the management of the Associated Press, but the Supreme Court of Illinois has made it pay a price for its boycott of THE SUN which is nothing short of appalling!

### The Mule Vindicated.

An incurable spirit of levity and prejudice has long prevailed in literature and in the popular idea of the mule. Firmness of disposition, a genius for calcitration and a sort of malicious deviltry are the qualities commonly ascribed to that remarkably sagacious and hard-working animal. A pattern of frugality and inlustry and more sagacious than the horse, the mule is clubbed by its drivers and the humorists, and its virtues go unrecognized and unrewarded. People even say of a robust person: "He has a constitution like a horse," "he is as strong as a horse," and forget that compared with the mule the horse is a weakling, a flower, a neurasthenic and a victim of hallucinations. The mule is the representative of frillless common sense, without Illusions, made stubborn by a long course of beating, poor fare, race prejudice and scurrile jests. The poets love to sing of lightning chargers and of steeds swift as the storm, but no canticle of mules is written. No mule minstrel corrects the injustice of the world. Even Mr. EDWIN MARKHAM has not hymned the hopeless drudgery of this much-enduring hybrid. The mule gets all the kicks, and returns a few.

But the misfortunes of pedigree cannot keep down merit in a democratic age. The mule has a great head, firm feet, invincible power of labor and sound geographical instincts. The mule can balance on the edge of nothing and climb precipices in a way to stagger the Alpine club. In peace and in wa: the mule is invaluble. How could the great war of America or the Spanish-American War have been carried on without the mule? What hope would the English have in South Africa if they had not the cooperation of this disciplined and intelligent subordinate or insubordinate? The peace societies have wasted time for years. The way to stop war is to destroy the mules. But what would peace be without the mule, the hardest worker in the world?

The statistics of the Agricultural Department are balm for the wounded pride of the mule. The average price of mules in 1899 was \$53.56 a head. The average price of horses in 1899 was \$9 less a head. Thus is the aristocrat beaten by the plebeian. and thus the whirligig of time brings in his revenges.

### A Law to Protect Moral Purity.

The religious agitation of the marriage and divorce question has led to the framing of a bill, which was introduced into the Legislature at Albany on Monday, constituting marital infidelity a misdemeanor ounishable as such. Bishop Doane of the Episcopal Church is understood to be the suggester of the measure, and, at any rate, e announces himself as strongly in favor of it, saving that it has been prepared in response to "a movement to put the sinners against purity of both sexes on the same ground by affixing a penalty to the crime of adultery.

That there should be such equality in he treatment of the offence is sound theoretically and in morals. In this Republic generally the law recognizes it, so far as concerns the integrity of the marriage relation, the infidelity of either he husband or the wife constituting the prime ground for divorce. In England, lowever, the law makes a radical distinction between them, based on purely physiclogical grounds. It gives the husband divorce in case of simple adultery by the wife, but not to the wife in the case of the husband's infidelity. To get a full divorce she must prove not only adultery in the husband, but also that it was accompanied by such cruelty as would have entitled her to a divorce, a mensa et thoro, or by deser tion for two years or more. Such a distinct tion, of course, is brutal and immoral, ye it is made in England, with its established Angliean Church. In this country, where there is no State Church, a higher moral

standard is preserved by the law. New York is now one of the few States o the Union which provide no punishment for a dultery, except so far as making it the sole cause for a full divorce. Bishop DOANE contends that this puts a premium or marital infidelity in this State; but might not the law advocated by him tend to prevent the punishment of adultery by divorce and the obtaining of that remedy by the aggrieved party to a marriage? Oftentimes witnesses competent to prove the adultery might be loath to give the evidence if its effect would be to bring upon the guilty party subsequent prosecution and conviction of a misdemeanor.

There might be cases, too, where juries would on such evidence be slow in finding guilt of adultery in divorce cases when their verdict carried with it a sentence of some man or woman to the penitentiary. It is questionable, therefore, if the law urged by Bishop DOANE would not interfere seriously with the free giving of testimony in divorce cases, and to that extent conflict with sound morals.

It is not less unquestionable, however that morally and rightfully the offence of adultery stands on the same plane in the case of both the man and the woman, and that the obligation of marital purity rests equally on both.

# Russia on the Afghan Frontier.

The alarm that is being raised in England over the increase of the number of Russian troops on the Afghan frontier is to a great extent artificial. An examination of the circumstances under which the increase has been made shows that it is of a precautionary rather than an aggressive measure. The Russian Government some time ago decided that the development of their possessions in the Transcaucasus and in Central Asia demanded a shorter and more convenient outlet to the eastern seas than that afforded by the Black Sea route, on which ships flying the Russian flag have to pass at so many points under the guns of Turkish and British batteries. That outlet, it was long ago decided, lay on the shores of the Persian Gulf or on the Persian coast of the Indian Ocean, and for years past the Court of Teheran has been the scene of an incessant struggle between the Russian and British legations for a controlling influence in the affairs of the country.

At one time it looked as if the British in fluence had gained the upper hand. A Persian bank with British capital was founded, and a concession for a tobacco monopoly was Press is wrecked and shattered from top to granted to a Major Talbot, one of the Cecil bottom. Its franchises are made worse than family, who disposed of it to a syndicate worthless and the admirable purpose of its | which sent its agents to all the principal the planting of the seed to the export of the manufactured article. The religious authorities at once declared abstention from tobacco to be a religious and patriotic duty, and a boycott was established. This was soon followed by riotous demonstrations in different places against the premises and warehouses belonging to the Tobacco Régie,

as the monopoly was styled, and after there

had been considerable destruction of prop-

erty the officials of the Régie fled the

country and the boycott on smoking was

raised. The British Government, however,

succeeded in extracting a heavy indemnity from the much-perplexed Shah, which was at once paid by the Russian Bank at Teheran to prevent the British increasing their hold on the country. Slowly, but surely, Russia has gone on extending her influence and trade in Persia, always to the detriment of British Commerce with that country, particularly in the northern part. At the same time the development of railways throughout Central Asia and the growth of commerce have called for a less obstructed channel than that afforded by the present route, on which goods going out or coming in are subject to several transhipments on land and water, adding materially to the cost and time of transport. Other reasons, of a political and military nature, presented themselves, and the survey of a railway starting from Julfa on the Russo-Persian Caucasus frontier to Tabriz, Hamadan, and to Bunder Abbas on the Persian Gulf through Shiraz, with a branch to Teheran, has been ordered. This railway with its

intents and purposes a Russian railway. Whether this has been decided on with or without a preliminary understanding with England is uncertain, and the despatch of troops to the Afghan frontier, not only to Kushk, but to other points much further east overhanging, as it were, the northwest frontier of India, makes it look as if it had not. The movement of these troops, however, is not necessarily ag gressive in intent, but, as has been said before, is precautionary, and designed to meet any action England might take to frustrate Russia's arrangements with Persia. An invasion or attempted invasion of India by Russia at this moment would not be in the interest of Russian policy in the East, with so much unassimilated and unorganized territory and population still on her hands. On the other hand, the British Indian

projected extensions and branches will be

entirely under Russian control and be to all

Government has of late assiduously pro moted a trade with that part of Persialying in proximity to Beluchistan, which is being carried on over a road passing through Kelat. The caravans go up as far north as Meshed, and it is said in recent Brit ish official reports that quite a brisk trade has already developed in Persian horses, cattle, and other things. The object of this is said to be to meet the Russian competition and create a British interest where until quite recently none existed; and the object of the Russian military preparations is to guard against the commercial aggression being made the forerunner for less peaceful measures on the part of the British Indian Govern ment. As Seistan, which England obtained from Persia and Afghanistan by much the same method that she did Griqualand West with Kimberley in South Africa, is an isolated piece of British territory, lying between Afghanistan and Persia, British troops from India can only reach it by passing through the southwestern corner of Afghanistan. The despatch of any considerable British force to that point by that route would be resented by Russia as a threat to her acquired rights in Persia, and if it became necessary to counteract that action. Russia might move troops toward the threatened point. It is, however, conceivable that should

the war in South Africa be speedily terminated and a large seasoned force of British soldiers be released for service in Asia there might be a change in the present aspect of the situation on the Afghan frontier on both sides. The relations between the British and Afghan governments are said to be unchanged, but recently the Ameer prohibited the importation of British Indian salt into his territory and the exportation to India of horses and other transport animals, neither of which can be regarded as a friendly proceeding. The increased Russian force has, therefore, more than one reason for its presence on the Afghan frontier without its purpose being necessarily aggressive. The death of the Ameer may also result in a dynastic struggle that will end in the partition of the country between England and Russia with or without war.

# The Kearsarge.

The Kearsarge, which went into commission on Tuesday with Capt. Folger in command, is the first new American battle ship to appear since the Iowa was launched four years ago. Among all theorists or the best schemes of arming warships there is probably not one who will not say that the Kearsarge is better armed than the Iowa or than the earlier class represented by the Indiana. The Kearsarge's great guns are of 13-inch caliber. like the Indiana's, instead of the 12-inches in the Iowa. Instead of the Indiana's four 6-inch and the Iowa's six 4-inch guns, the Kearsarge carries fourteen 5-inch, all of rapid fire, making the amount of metal that she can discharge against an enemy in a given time incomparably greater than that

of any of her predecessors. The only considerable dispute reasonably possible as to her merits, when compared with other vessels of the Navy, is upon the 8-inch turrets, which in the Kearsarge, are superposed upon the 13-inch turrets, Practically this gives the same broadside fire as is possessed by the Iowa, which carries four 8-inch turrets placed independently. Whether they are good or bad, can be determined by trial only. If they turn out good, they will probably be seen on every new battleship that carries turrets at all.

The country is waiting eagerly to hear from the Kearsarge's turrets.

A genuine onophilist exists in Kansas City, Mo. The Times of that town says that the brand placed on Senator Petrigrew's brow has become a halo" and that "there are and always will be those who will crown him." Crown him with thistles for the pettigrew

A good bill to pass in Congress: The bill to "increase the efficiency of the military establishment of the United States." introduced by Senator HAWLEY, with the approval of the Secetary of War.

Here is the Hon BEBE Anson bestriding the baseball field again like a Colossus. When the world was younger. BEBE was still called 'old," and there seems to be no doubt that. still no older and no younger, he will be regnant in the diamond when the Dinkas and the Bushmen are playing for the native professional championship of Africa.

### IN SOUTH AFRICA.

It is evident from the news that has been

coming in since yesterday that Gen. Cronie's

retreat from his positions between the Modder

and Kimberley, after they had become untenable, was executed in a masterly manner. So far from his force flying in a demoralized condition as described, he retired in perfect order, and, when too closely pressed by the pursuing British force, turned and inflicted losses that as yet can only be estimated by the number of officers of all ranks who are reported to have een killed and wounded. Among the latter there are two Generals, one being the newly appointed commander of the Highland Brigade, Sir Hector Macdonald. By this time Gen. Cronje should be receiving such reënforcements as can be sent him by rail from Pretoria to cover his right flank and enable him to make head against the British force presumably acting under the orders of Gen. Ritchener until the Free Staters coming from Natal, part probably by rail by way of Harrismith to Bethlehem, where they would detrain and continue their march by road to Winburg. where they would again take rail direct to Bloemfontein, arrive. It will very likely be found that some of the commandos that were in Natal are already with Gen. Cronje, while he should by now have been joined by some of those coming north from the direction of Stormberg. Nothing has been heard of Gen. Prinsloo with the commandos from Colesberg that captured the British convoy near Koffyfontein, south of the Riet River, but he is no doubt now acting in 'cooperation with Gen. Cronje, guarding his flank and ready to hold out a hand if necessary to any force coming in his direction from the south. Every day, even a few hours' delay, now gives the Boers increased chances of keeping the British back until their concentration is effected and their plans to meet the new conditions of the campaign are formed. A Berlin report is being quoted to the effect that Gen. Cronje is really surrounded and has been given time limit within which to surrender but Berlin reports lately have proved unreliable, and so important a piece of news is not likely to have been withheld from the British public who will not feel encouraged by the casualty reports already given out. The Canadian contingent has passed under fire and seems to have been severely handled, having had twenty killed and sixty wounded. the latter including two officers. The total

loss with prisoners and missing was eighty The absence of news later than Sunday seems to indicate that the Boer resistance continues. as Lord Roberts's headquarters were still at Paardeberg on Tuesday, on which day the casualty list was dated. The Boer official reports describing the fighting in which they claim to have captured forty British prisoners, horses and other booty, come down to Monday, a day later than those from Lord Roberts, which shows that up to then the Boers' communications with Bloemfontein were still intact. There is one difficulty with which the British have to contend which is not being referred to in the official descatches, but is making itself severely felt. It is the increasing disease among their horses and transport animals, a sickness called strangles having broken out in one batch alone of 1.200 mules, out of which a large number had to be killed, while the rest were sent to the rear and segregated to prevent its spreading among the rest of the animals with the army.

In Natal Gen. Buller pushed Gen. Warren's division across the Tugela yesterday driving back the Boer rear guard and silencing their artillery. Mindful of his previous experiences he appears to be proceeding cautiously, and is mounting guns on Hlangwani Mountain with which to bombard the Boer positions at Grobelaars Kloof and up the railway line as far as Nelthorpe station. The Boers are now probably only masking their positions Colenso and Ladysmith to between give time to the convoys to get safely off, and we may hear at any moment of their having alloped away from in front of Gen. Buller and left the road open to him. The decision which is said to have been come to by the Transvaal and Free State Governments to withdraw as speedily as possible the whole of their forces within their own boundaries. is reported to be in consequence of an understanding be tween them and the Cape Government, by which, as soon as British territory was evacuated by the republican forces, an agitation was to be made in the Colony in favor of an early peace with the recognition of the independence of the two republies.

Fighting is reported to have taken place between the Boers and Col. Plumer's Rhodesian contingent at Crocodile Pools near Gaberones. in which the British were repulsed with some loss. This affair took place before Feb. 12, and is probably the same that has already been reported from Pretoria some time back.

# This Bull Not Tim Healy's.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: I was surprised o read in an editorial in an afternoon newspaper of Jan. 30 the following: "That the statement under discussion is almost as mysterious as the famous remark by Tim Healy in the British Parliament: 'As ong as the voice of Irish suffering is dumb the ear of English compassion is deaf to it." Knowing that neither Mr. Healy nor his Irish colleagues in the English Parliament is addicted to the use of slovenly language. I sent him the excerpt and received this reply under date of Feb. 8:

"I am obliged for your courtesy, but if I noticed lies about myself I should embark on an engrossing, but non-productive industry and starve for my pains. I never before saw this particular lie or heard of it, and the English are fairly active without the American alliance. Yours truly.

Do pro-English editorial writers in the United States, like their kind in London, manufacture "bulls" and attribute them to Irishmen? J. M. S. New York, Feb. 19. of English compassion is deaf to it. " Knowing that

# Mrs. Piper.

To the Editor of The Sun-Sir: I notice in cer tain experiments made in Boston with a Mrs. Piper made by Prof. Hyslov of Columbia University and others, a certain talking spirit is called "George Pelham," who was once of the staff of The Sun. Was it a fact that you had such a gentleman?

RICHMOND, Va., Feb. 16.

J. J. LAFFERTT.

We believe that Mrs. Piper has added to her list of spirit assistants a George Pellew. Mr. George Pellew, pefore his death, was a writer for THE SUN.

#### The Vicissitudes of Senator Gear's Hat. From the Boston Daily Advertiser.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 19.—Senator Gear wears a sof felt hat. He does not leave it in the cloakroom but, carrying it in the Senate, throws it down upo the floor. As Mr. Gear's desk is on the centre aisle nis black felt hat is the most conspicuous object in the Senate chamber.

The experiences of Gear's hat during the Senate sessions would make a book, if they could be related at length. Stewart, who sits behind Gear comes along, and, unknowingly, kicks the hat dozen feet. It emerges from the collision in a sadi; demoralized shape, but Gear reaches out, gathers his head-covering and resumes his reading. Pres ently the hat is encountered by the toe of anothe statesman and goes sailing away over the floor Then Gear reaches out for it again.

Some of these days Gear will put a brick in his ha and then when a Senator comes along and kicks i there will be trouble.

#### Why the Maryland Democrats Wont Hunt the Fox To-day.

From the Baltimore Sun. ANNAPOLIS, Md., Feb. 16 .- Mr. Redmond C. Stew ort arranged for a legislative for hunt on the 22d of February, to take place in Green Spring Valley Saltimore county. The original design was to have a Democratic hunt, with President Hubner of the Senate well to the front. But the wise President positively prohibite Mr. Stewart from taking any Democratic Senator on his hunt. "We have only four teen Democratic votes in the Senate," President Hub ner said, "a bare constitutional majority, and if Mr. Stewart breaks the neck of one of them we will be helpless to pass even a nonpartisan school bill cannot permit such a risk."

The plan has therefore been changed, and the Ser torial leaders of the hunt will be Republicans.

Knew His Rusiness. From the Ohio State Journal Photographer (to young lady)-"There is no nee of telling you to look pleasant, miss. Such a face annot be otherwise than pleasant." Young Lady (graciously)-"I will take two dozen ir, instead of one dozen."

### ART NOTES.

There's a full in art matters at present, folowing the unusual activity of the latter part of January and the first week of this month. The Society of American Artists' exhibition. the next important event of the year, will open on Saturday, March 24, works in painting and sculpture for the show being received at the Fine Arts building in West Fifty-seventh street. on Thursday and Friday, March 8 and 9. The hanging committee consists of William A. Coffin. A. N. A., Louis Paul Dessar, A. N. A., and Irving R. Wiles, N. A. The jury of admission consists, as usual, of thirty members of

the society. One-man exhibitions, several auction sales and the small displays in dealers' galleries will fill in the time until the society exhibition opens, and one of the most interesting of these, no doubt, will be the exhibition by the "Ten American Painters" at the Durand-Ruel galleries some time in March. The Society of Landscape Painters, another coterie with twelve members, will hold its second annual exhibition at the galleries of the American Art Association, beginning the first week in May. At Keppel's rooms in East Sixteenth street may be seen until the 6th of March the interesting collection of etchings of ancient Roman edifices by Piranesi, and Dodd, Mead & Co announce that they have at their new store. Fifth avenue and Thirty-fifth street, a number of illuminated manuscripts belonging to Mr. Frederich Gotthold, which will be shown for ten days. Among them is a unique copy of Omar Khayyam. At Wunder lich's gallery, 868 Broadway, is an ex hibition of drawings in pastel, pencil and charcoal by J. Carroll Beckwith, N. A., consisting of fifty-seven numbers and similar in charac ter to those shown by the same artist at this gallery in November, 1898. They depict with more or less finish, but always with skill and a marked personality of technical means, various figures and groups, the majority being simple studies of feminine types, modern, semi-classical or idealistic. The fine exhibition of landscapes by Mr. Tryon continues at the new Montross galleries, and Mr. Vedder's pictures and sculpture are still on view at Avery's The American Art Association announces the

opening to-day of the exhibition of Prof. collection of Oriental porcelains. curios, bronzes, antique furniture, rugs and pletures in oil and water colors. Mr. T. J. Blakeslee has issued a fine illustrated catalogue of pictures now in his rooms at Fifth avenue and Thirty-fourth street, and Mr. Fischof, the former representative in the United States of Charles Sedelmeyer, the famous Paris art dealer of the Rue de la Rochefoucauld, exhibits at his headquarters in the Astor Court building a splendid example of Rubens's "A Holy Family oming from the collection of Sir Cecil Miles of Leigh Court, Bristol, England. At the same place Mr. Fischof shows a fine portrait by Titian, the Doge Antonio Grimani, Mr. Carl Glucksmann, who now represents the Sedelmeyer house in New York, has brought out a sumptuous portfolio of forty photogravures after the most celebrated pictures by Rem brandt exhibited at the recent show of that great master's work at Amsterdam. The letter press is by Dr. C. Hofstede de Goot and the work is dedicated "by gracious permission 'to her Majesty, Queen Wilhelmina. It may be seen at 14 East Forty-fifth street, from 4

#### The Savings Bank Depositor and the Treat Tax Bill.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: Apropos of the Treat bill now pending in the Legislature at Albany, which imposes a tax on the savings of over \$1,000 on each account in the savings banks in this State I desire to call attention to a measure most inimical to the interest of the people.

The savings institutions in this State are the "finan cial Gibraltar" of the thrifty people. This Treat bill is a blow on the wave earners. They will resent it

to a man. Mr. Treat in defence of his bill states that the say ings banks are used by the wealthy and those who heard money. This statement is at variance with facts. The bulk of depositors in the savings banks verage a little less than \$500. The few accounts of \$1,000 and over belong mostly to a thrifty class To tax these is a blow at the industry of the poor toffers who are making daily sacrifices in order, when old to have some income on which they can depend. Let Mr. Treat visit some of the large savings banks in this city at the interest periods, January and July, and see the class of people that come for heir interest. Some receive a mere pittance, other more, and very few the highest amount paid semi annually on a single account, namely, \$60. Does Mr. Treat think an annual income of \$120 too much

for comfort in one's old age? The bill proposed would put a decided stop to ar ncentive to thrift, and the result would be an in rease of the burdens already borne by the com paratively poor. In fact, it would be a crime against the civilization of the age to oppress those who are least able to protect themselves

#### NEW YORK, Feb. 17. TOMO SARGENTICE.

The Senator With the Automobile. If you happen to be riding your bicycle on Massa chusetts avenue about 11 o'clock in the morning ou will hear the whir of wheels, the sound of warning gong, and then an automobile with a buggy top will whiz by and turn up New Jersey avenue the Capitol. The man who holds the lever and who s acting as his own engineer and coachman is about to exchange his seat in the automobile for a seat in the United States Senate. When the Capitol is reached, the automobile will halt in front of the Senate chamber and will stay there until Senator Wolcott is ready to go home in the afternoon.

# George Washington's Address to His Country

Say, Eagle, Ain't we great? Ain't we really immense Ain't we the greatest That ever happened? From your lofty perch on The palladium of our liberties Sweep your piercing eye around The wide horizon and see for yourself. There is nothing like us And we are getting more different Every minute By Jiminy Christmas, I had no idea when I started in With this country Where we were coming out. Why, you hadn't more than Got out of your shell, And now your wings Spread from the clustered Antiller To the splendors of the Orient; And when you scream. The echoes hurtle round the world And principalities and powers And decaying dynasties Take to the tall timber. And the Flag: The glittering and glorious Star-Spangled Banner. Which Europe thought was merely

Is now the Blooming bunting of a boundless bailiwick. And the Fourth of July? Well, say, Eagle, It's going to be the rthday of half a world. Of which I am Father of the best part, And stepfather to the balance. You can roost on the ridge pole Of the Greater Republic And scream a lung out, But it won't be so much as a murmur

When I first swung it to the breeze

A dishrag.

This very minute And handicapped as I must be Under the circumstances I'm with you in spirit, Old Baldy, And every time you flap your wings And scream, I burst a button off That's the kind of an expansionist I am. And if you will put A Star-Spangled girdle Round the world.

I'll tie & knot in it That will stay tied. And don't you forget it. Go on with your spread, Oh Eagle. And Star-Spangled Banner fly high; I'm with you forever, and wish you

A perpetual Fourth of July.

PREE STATERS STAND FAST.

Will Give the Transvant Their Hearty Support to the Bitter End

George W. Van Sielen, American treasurer of the fund for the widows and orphans of the Boers, has just received the following letter: "THE HAGUE, Jan. 31, 1900 "Sin: I have no objection to reply to your question whether there is any truth in the

rumors spread in England, pretending that the Free Staters are abandoning the Transvaalers and are giving up fighting or intend to do so. These rumors are altogether false. "On the contrary, the Jameson raid had already brought the two republies together, as it had shown the designs of the present British administration as regards the independence of

the two South African republies. And now this war is making one nation of the two States and brothers of their burghers, who before were treating each other as cousins. "The Free State has done its very utmost to avert war by its inward policy, by its policy toward Great Britain now and in the past, and by its policy with regard to our sister republic. We have not made war nor even taken up a spiteful attitude after the Basutos had been armed against us in spite of the treaties, not

after the British took their country when we at last, after fourteen years of struggle against their never-ceasing raids, had subdued them; no more after the appropriation by England of our diamond fields, nor when arbitration about the rightful ownership of them was refused by England; nor on account of any of our bitter grievances against England so clearly explained by our Chief Justice de Villiers in the Nineteenth Century of March, 1897. For we desired peace. We desired to cooperate with the English to the benefit of South

with the English to the benefit of South Africa.

"But it has all proved of no avail. Independence has been forced upon us when the Basutos proved too powerful for the British colonial government, who first had made them strong, and now, that we have made out of a wilderness a flourishing, civilized, progressing State, our independence is at stake. For our republican treaties are only being considered of any value as far as they give rights to England and a new institution of international law is being invented, that of paramountey, which, applied to Europe, would make Russia paramount over Great Britain.

"The rolicy of the present British administration has exasperated my people, the most peaceful in the world. There was and is no choice: my people have to fight or to die. For our independence is dearer to us than our life.

choice: my people have to fight or to die. For our independence is dearer to us than our life. How could we set arate from our Transvaal brothers now that, all told, men, women and children, both States together, have not more souls than a small British. children, both States together, have not more souls than a small British town, who now have been forced to war by the largest empire the

children, both States together, have not more souls than a small British town, who now have been forced to war by the largest empire the world has everseen?

"We could not separate and we do not want to. God would not continue His visible protection of our just cause. The Transwaal people are our brothers and kinsmen, not only figuratively speaking, but also in, reality. And we have availed ourselves of the experience of past months and put right whatever was not in perfect shape in the beginning of the war. This war is doing just the reverse of what the English intended it to attain; instead of crushing the Afrikanders, it is building up out of two States one federated Transwaal Free State or Orange Republic, strong by its unity and strong by the common suffering so terrible and so undeserved. I am, Sir, Yours faithfully, the Envoy Extraordinary of the Orange Free State,

"Dr. HENDRIK MULLER."

#### Further Expressions of the Invincible Public Sentiment Against the Treaty. From the Suracuse Journal.

AMERICAN OR NOTHING.

The fundamental objection to the treatythat which should render its ratification by the Senate impossible-is that it grants to foreign powers the right to interfere and dictate in purely American affairs. This provision it is needless to remark is directly contrary to the spirit of those guiding principles first distinctly enunciated by Fresident James Monroe. The canal, when completed, will be virtually a portion of the coast line of the United States, as was pointed out by President Haves, and as such it is within the province of this Government to fortify it or not, to keep it open or shut, as it shall see fit.

Provided we guarantee to keep it open to the merchant vessels and even to the warships of foreign powers in time of peace and to nonbelligerents in time of war, if practicable, that is all that other nations can in justice expect. more especially as the waterway is to be solely the product of American brains and American capital. But to keep it open whether in time of peace or time of war, the United States needs not the assistance of England or any other power on the face of the earth.

# From the Rochester Post-

The United States is not concerned in the neutrality of the Suez Canal. Why, therefore, should England, or any other foreign power. attempt to interfere with an interoceanic canal to be constructed by the United States?

# From the Indianapolis Sentinel.

The only way out is for the American Government to build the canal and hold control of it without asking the consent of any European nation. Of course its use for commercial purposes should be allowed to all comers on equal terms, but there should be no question about its being a United States canal, and subject to United States control.

From the Knozville Sentinel. The country hasn't been so outspoken on

### any question as against the treaty by which we propose to give up our claims to the great interoceanic canal that is of such value to our nation. From the Washington Times.

It is reported and has not been denied that when Mr. Hay presented the draft of his international gratuity to the Empire. Lord Salisbury was cheerfully willing to agree that the United States should own, control and fortify the Nicaragua Canal. Now that he must see the drift of American popular opinion and angry determination in the premises, he should be not less inclined to concede the point. In fact. the peoples of the two countries have reached a point which may appear in history as the parting of the ways. America will not tolerate British or other European interference, either by aggression or forced cooperation, in the affairs of this hemisphere. Great Britain might easily cement the friendship that resulted from her attitude in the Spanish war by frankly and freely renouncing any pretensions on account of the Clayton-Bulwer Treaty, retiring from her position of offensive activity in our sphere of influence, and acknowledging that America is for Americans, Only upon the basis of such a principle can the two great Anglo-Saxon States ever hope to live in peace and amity.

# A RELIGIOUS CENSUS.

### The Census to Be Taken in Philadelphia To-day.

From the Philadelphia Times Some time to-morrow a representative of the urt ed religious forces of Philadelphia will knock at the door of every home in the city and ask for information from each family as to the church preferences and the number of religious communicants his means that about 200,000 homes, containing Philadelphia's million and a quarter of inhabitants will be visited between breakfast and sunset by the census-takers.

The plans of the organization which has been effected to accomplish this gigantic task have been finally completed, and the workers are now waiting to start out on their canvass of the city.

The estimate of the number of visitors needed was originally set at 8,000. Hugh Cork, the superintendent of the work, says that this full number has not yet been received, but that instructions have been sent out that persons who can give only an hour or two to the work on Thursday should report at their district headquarters. Others who can give only the morning or the afternoon are urged to do likewise. By means of these unregistered helpers it is believed that no house in the city will be left

unvisited. The work of the census hinges largely on the district organization. The eighteen general districts have been subdivided into 137 parts, each with

# Defining a Malady.

From the Indianopolis Journal. "What is tobacco heart, Harvey?" "Oh, it is heart disease which women get who continually agitate themselves by nagging their husbands for smoking."